during the next 10-11 years. Consultations have been held with State Governments, NGOs, financial institutions and manufacturers to develop an action plan for this purpose. State Governments have been asked to send lists of un-electrified villages which cannot be electrified by conventional means. A provision of Rs. 20 crores has been included in the budget of the Ministry for 2001-02 to initiate implementation of this programme.

Filling up the post of CMD, in NEEPCO

1157. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) is running with an *ad-hoc* CMD;

(b) whether key posts in the Board- of Directors are lying vacant with many of the Directors due to retire soon;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken to fill up these key posts for better functioning of NEEPCO in the light of news-item in Assam Tribune dated 8th July, 2001 captioned "Outstanding dues posing problems for NEEPCO"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The posts of Chairman & Managing Director and Director (Finance), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) fell vacant with effect from 1.11.2000 and 1.3.2001 respectively consequent upon the retirement of respective incumbents. The delay in the filling up these posts was on account of consultation process related certain administrative procedures and late receipt of requisite information and documents from the respective organizations where the selected candidates arc employed. These cases have since been processed and on receipt of the approval of the Competent Authority, the posts of CMD Director (F), NEEPCO would be filled.